

classmates recognized his achievements and drive when they voted him Most Likely to Succeed. He graduated as valedictorian of his class, a testament to his hard work and perseverance. In addition to earning these accolades, Jason has actively involved himself in the community while participating in Key Club and Eagle Scout community service projects.

Jason's compassion is evidenced in the wealth of time he has devoted to helping those who are in need. This spring, Jason made Easter baskets for children in Vanderbilt University's pediatric ward. While many of his peers were relaxing during the summer of 2002, Jason was delivering food to the sick and elderly through his involvement with the Meals on Wheels program.

I am proud to share my hometown with Jason. I am even prouder that he is now attending my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. He is a truly talented young man and a fine example of the promise and potential of America's youth.

HONORING MISSOURI CORN PRODUCERS AND THE PEOPLE OF MID-MISSOURI ENERGY, INC.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate Missouri corn producers and the people of Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc., who have tirelessly worked to form a farmer-owned ethanol production facility in Malta Bend, Missouri. Folks from this cooperative will break ground on their new plant on October 4, 2003.

Farmers in Missouri and throughout the nation are working in fields right now to harvest their corn for the year. Many of these producers have experienced tough economic times over the past several years and prolonged drought in the Midwest is making things difficult again this year. In order to make their yields more valuable, corn growers have sought to enhance the value added nature of their commodity. Ethanol, which is a renewable fuel that comes from corn, is an important value added product for farmers and its production means a great deal to those of us who live in middle America.

Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc., was created to maximize the return on investment to its investors by adding value to Show-Me State corn production, to create economic development in central Missouri, and to foster a positive environment among its employees. The men and women who make up this cooperative are hard working Missourians who have committed their time and money to the success of the new ethanol production plant. I especially applaud the efforts of Mid-Missouri Energy Chairman Ryland Utlaut of Alma, Missouri, for his dedicated efforts.

As farmers break ground on this new ethanol production facility, I know that Members of Congress will join me in honoring the outstanding work of Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc.

TRANSPORTATION/TREASURY AP-
PROPRIATIONS BILL FY04—CUBA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman ISTOOK and Ranking Member OLIVER for their fine work on this bill. I am proud to be a member of this Subcommittee, under their leadership. I rise today in opposition to the Flake amendment to lift the ban on travel to Cuba. There are many reasons to support the ban on travel to Cuba.

Number one, we must remember that Cuba is considered a state sponsor of terrorism by the U.S. government, as are Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Sudan, and until recently, Iraq under Saddam Hussein's regime. Number two, thousands of Americans traveling to Cuba will not change the Castro regime. Today, Canadians and Europeans travel to Cuba on a regular basis, and the lives of average Cubans have not improved. The average Cuban has not had contact with foreigners and has not benefited from the tourism revenue because the money flows directly to Castro. Instead of enlightening the Castro regime to respect human rights and support democracy, we have seen no improvement as a result of increased travel to Cuba.

Number three, on March 18, 2003, Castro's regime instituted a massive crackdown on independent journalists and democracy activists. Seventy-five activists were arrested, subjected to summary trials and prosecutions, and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 6 to 28 years. Amnesty International has termed it "the most severe crackdown on the dissident movement since the years following the Cuban revolution." Castro's regime also executed three men in April who had hijacked a ferry in Havana in an attempt to reach the United States. The men were executed by firing squads after summary trials that were held behind closed doors; four other ferry hijackers received life sentences while another received 30 years in prison.

Number four, the Castro government continues to provide sanctuary for American fugitives from justice. For example, take the case of Joanne Chesimard, a convicted cop killer who took the life of a New Jersey State Trooper. On May 2, 1973, New Jersey State troopers Werner Foerster and James Harper pulled over Joanne Chesimard and two of her companions in a routine traffic stop. A shoot-out transpired, and Trooper Foerster, who had served on the force for less than three years, was shot and killed. Trooper Harper was wounded. A jury in the United States found that Trooper Foerster had been shot in the back of his head, execution style, at point-blank range. The jury convicted Joanne Chesimard of murder and sentenced her to life in prison. But, Chesimard escaped from prison in 1979, lived underground in America for a few years, and soon found sanctuary in Castro's Cuba. Chesimard continues to live in Cuba, free from justice. Castro has refused to turn Chesimard over to the United States.

In addition to Joanne Chesimard, there are 73 other fugitives from U.S. law living under Castro's protection in Cuba, including a member of the FBI's 10 most wanted list.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America should not allow Fidel Castro, a state sponsor

of terrorism, egregious abuser of human rights, and protector of U.S. cop killers, to enjoy the financial benefits of American tourism. He must return Joanne Chesimard and the other fugitives from American justice, cease support for terrorism, end the gross human rights violations within his country, and embrace democracy before we can welcome Castro among the nations of the world.

The Flake amendment will not create the changes we all hope for in Cuba. The amendment will only make Castro and his family richer, and send a horrible message to dictators across the world. Oppose the Flake amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mother Teresa of Calcutta, whose birthday was August 27. Pope John Paul II will be beatifying her on October 19 in Rome.

As I reflect on her life of love and sacrifice, I am struck by the number of people's lives she was able to touch. Her work in Calcutta's slums illustrated her commitment to pulling people out of poverty by empowering them with self esteem and the hope that change is always possible.

For 50 years, Mother Teresa brought dignity to the poor and unwanted. After finding a woman dying in front of a Calcutta hospital, she sat with the woman until she died. Soon after, she began a campaign for a shelter for people to die with dignity. Her life's mission was caring for the human castoffs the world wanted to forget.

Her love brought hope to countless who were struggling on the brink of existence. In 1982, at the height of the siege in Beirut, she rescued 37 children trapped in a front line hospital by brokering a temporary cease-fire between the Israeli army and Palestinian guerrillas.

She recognized that, despite economic development efforts, there were people out there whose lives remained mired in the sorry circumstances of their birth. She opened schools, orphanages and homes for the needy, and turned her attention to the victims of AIDS as that disease increased in prevalence.

Her notoriety speaks to the impact of her love and service. Her integrity and humility drew large crowds and invited great affection.

As we remember the incredible work of an extraordinary woman, I hope that we are all challenged to live out the prayer that is inscribed on the wall of her Children's Home in Calcutta:

MOTHER TERESA'S PRAYER

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;

. . . Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

. . . Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

. . . Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;